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DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP		ZHOU, TING	
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PTOL-90A (Rev. 10/06)

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Application Number: 10/038,312
Filing Date: November 09, 2001
Appellant(s): HONG, JUN-IL

MAILED

APR 1 8 2007

Technology Center 2100

Paul J. Farrell
<u>For Appellant</u>

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 4 January 2007 appealing from the Office action

mailed 25 November 2005.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings

which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in

the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in

the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

| 5,898,432 | PINARD | 4-1999 |
| 5,774,866 | HORWITZ et al. | 6-1998 |

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinard U.S. Patent 5,898,432 and Horwitz et al. U.S. Patent 5,774,866 (hereinafter "Horwitz").

Referring to claim 1, Pinard teaches a method comprising the steps of registering one of the plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs (upon occurrence of a status change, such as receipt of a telephone call, email, fax, etc., the appearance of an individual state indicator, i.e. the cursor, is changed to one which relates to the corresponding function related to the status change) (Pinard: column 1, line 59-column 2, line 10 and column 4, line 11-55); altering the state representation of the individual state indicator (changing the appearance of the cursor) (Pinard: Figures 2-5); and invoking the registered function upon receipt of a user input (action by the user of executing the invoked function of the cursor, i.e. user action of answering the telephone upon the display of the cursor

indicating a telephone call, user running an application program to access an email upon the

display of the cursor indicating a waiting email message, etc.) (Pinard: column 4, lines 5-55).

However, Pinard fails to explicitly teach invoking the registered function upon receipt of a user

input for designating the individual state indicator. Horwitz teaches a method for the display of

status indicators (such as the display of the alarm status flashing icon when conflicting search

results are found) (Horwitz: column 21, lines 1-15) similar to that of Pinard. In addition,

Horwitz further teaches invoking the registered function of the state indicator upon receipt of a

user input for designating the individual state indicator (the registered function of displaying

selected information associated with the alarm status flashing icon, i.e. a list of potential matters

which produced the conflicts, is invoked if the user selects the alarm status flashing icon)

(Horwitz: column 21, lines 1-15 and 26-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill

in the art, having the teachings of Pinard and Horwitz before him at the time the invention was

made, to modify the method for associating a function with an indicator of Pinard to include the

use of executing the associated function upon selection of the icon taught by Horwitz. One

would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to allow users to respond to

important indicator events such as alarms in a timely, convenient and user-friendly manner.

Referring to claim 2, Pinard teaches a method comprising the steps of registering one the

plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status

change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state

indicator occurs (upon occurrence of a status change, such as receipt of a telephone call, email,

fax, etc., the appearance of an individual state indicator, i.e. the cursor, is changed to one which

relates to the corresponding function related to a status change) (Pinard: column 1, line 59-

column 2, line 10 and column 4, line 11-55), altering the state representation of the individual

state indicator (changing the appearance of the cursor) (Pinard: Figures 2-5), and invoking the.

registered function upon receipt of a user input (action by the user of executing the invoked

function of the cursor, i.e. user action of answering the telephone upon the display of the cursor

indicating a telephone call, user running an application program to access an email upon the

display of the cursor indicating a waiting email message, etc.) (Pinard: column 4, lines 5-55).

However, Pinard fails to explicitly teach determining whether the coordinates of a touch screen

input indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of the touch

screen input and invoking the registered function when the coordinates of the touch screen input

indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator. Horwitz teaches a method for

the display of status indicators (such as the display of the alarm status flashing icon when

conflicting search results are found) (Horwitz: column 21, lines 1-15) similar to that of Pinard.

In addition, Horwitz further teaches determining whether the coordinates of a touch screen input

indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of the touch screen

input and invoking the registered function when the coordinates of the touch screen input

indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator (the registered function of

displaying selected information associated with the alarm status flashing icon, i.e. a list of

potential matters which produced the conflicts, is invoked if the user selects the alarm status

flashing icon; and using a touch screen input to make onscreen selections) (Horwitz: column 9,

lines 2-6 and column 21, lines 1-15 and 26-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art, having the teachings of Pinard and Horwitz before him at the time the invention

was made, to modify the method for associating a function with an indicator of Pinard to include

the use of executing the associated function upon touch screen selection of the icon taught by

Horwitz. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to allow users to

respond to important indicator events such as alarms in a timely, convenient and user-friendly

manner.; furthermore, it would have been advantageous to make such a combination in order to

avoid the inconvenience of attaching a mouse or keyboard to devices that are small in size, such

as handheld devices like PDAs and cell phones.

Referring to claim 3, Pinard teaches a method comprising the steps of registering one of

the plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status

change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state

indicator occurs (upon occurrence of a status change, such as indication of the receipt of a

telephone call, email, fax, etc., the appearance of an individual state indicator, i.e. the cursor, is

changed to one which relates to the corresponding function related to a status change) (Pinard:

column 1, line 59-column 2, line 10 and column 4, line 11-55), altering the state representation

of the individual state indicator (changing the appearance of the cursor) (Pinard: Figures 2-5),

and invoking the registered function upon receipt of a user input (action by the user of executing

the invoked function of the cursor, i.e. user action of answering the telephone upon the display

of the cursor indicating a telephone call, user running an application program to access an email

upon the display of the cursor indicating a waiting email message, etc.) (Pinard: column 4, lines

5-55). However, Pinard fails to explicitly teach determining whether a cursor or an input focus is

positioned over a representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of a user

button input, and invoking the registered function when the cursor or input focus is positioned

over the representation area of the individual state indicator. Horwitz teaches a method for the

display of status indicators (such as the display of the alarm status flashing icon when conflicting

search results are found) (Horwitz: column 21, lines 1-15) similar to that of Pinard. In addition,

Horwitz further teaches determining whether a cursor or an input focus is positioned over a

representation area of the individual state indicator upon receipt of a user button input

(determining if the user has selected the icon through the input means) (Horwitz: column 9, lines

2-6 and column 21, lines 11-15), and invoking the registered function when the cursor or input

focus is positioned over the representation area of the individual state indicator (the registered

function of displaying selected information associated with the alarm status flashing icon, i.e. a

list of potential matters which produced the conflicts, is invoked if the user selects the alarm

status flashing icon) (Horwitz: column 21, lines 1-15 and 26-30). It would have been obvious to

one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Pinard and Horwitz before him at the time

the invention was made, to modify the method for associating a function with an indicator of

Pinard to include the use of executing the associated function upon selection of the icon taught

by Horwitz. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to allow users

to respond to important indicator events such as alarms in a timely, convenient and user-friendly

manner.

Referring to claim 4, Pinard teaches a method comprising the steps of registering a

message reading function of the plurality of functions related to the message state indicator when

the message arrives (for example, changing the cursor to the function of displaying an email

message indicator among the plurality of related functions of displaying a telephone indicator, an

alarm indicator, etc., upon receipt of a signal indicating an email message waiting to be read)

(Pinard: column 1, line 59-column 2, line 10 and column 4, line 11-55); displaying the alteration

of the representation of the individual message state indicator (changing the appearance of the

cursor to display a message indicator, i.e. an email message indicator) (Pinard: Figures 2-5), and

invoking the message reading function upon receipt of a user input (action by the user of

executing the invoked function of the cursor, i.e. user action of answering the telephone upon

the display of the cursor indicating a telephone call, user running an application program to

access an email upon the display of the cursor indicating a waiting email message, etc.) (Pinard:

column 4, lines 5-55). However, Pinard fails to explicitly teach determining whether coordinates

of a touch screen input indicate a representation area of the individual message indicator upon

receipt of the touch screen input; and invoking the message reading function when the

coordinates of the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual state

indicator. Horwitz teaches a method for the display of status indicators (such as the display of the

alarm status flashing icon when conflicting search results are found) (Horwitz: column 21, lines

1-15) similar to that of Pinard. In addition, Horwitz further teaches determining whether

coordinates of a touch screen input indicate a representation area of the individual state indicator

upon receipt of the touch screen input and invoking the function when the coordinates of the

touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator (the registered

function of displaying selected information associated with the alarm status flashing icon, i.e. a

list of potential matters which produced the conflicts, is invoked if the user selects the alarm

status flashing icon; and using a touch screen input to make onscreen selections) (Horwitz:

column 9, lines 2-6 and column 21, lines 1-15 and 26-30). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Pinard and Horwitz before him at the time the

invention was made, to modify the method for associating a message reading function with an

indicator of Pinard to include the use of executing the associated function upon touch screen

selection of the icon taught by Horwitz. One would have been motivated to make such a

combination in order to allow users to respond to important indicator events such as alarms in a

timely, convenient and user-friendly manner.; furthermore, it would have been advantageous to

make such a combination in order to avoid the inconvenience of attaching a mouse or keyboard

to devices that are small in size, such as handheld devices like PDAs and cell phones.

Referring to claim 5, Pinard teaches a method comprising the steps of registering an

alarm function of the plurality of functions related to the individual alarm state indicator when

the alarm is set (for example, changing the cursor to the function of displaying an alarm indicator

among the plurality of related functions of displaying a telephone indicator, an email indicator,

etc. upon receipt of a signal indicating the occurrence of an alarm) (Pinard: column 1, line 59-

column 2, line 10 and column 4, line 11-55), displaying the alteration of the representation of the

individual alarm state indicator (changing the appearance of the cursor to display an alarm

indicator) (Pinard: Figures 2-5), and invoking an alarm function upon receipt of a user input

(action by the user of executing the invoked function of the cursor, i.e. user action of answering

the telephone upon the display of the cursor indicating a telephone call, user running an

application program to access an email upon the display of the cursor indicating a waiting email

message, etc.) (Pinard: column 4, lines 5-55). However, Pinard fails to explicitly teach

determining whether coordinates of a touch screen input indicate a representation area of the

state indicator upon receipt of the touch screen input and invoking the individual alarm function

when the coordinates of the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual

state indicator. Horwitz teaches a method for the display of status indicators (such as the display

of the alarm status flashing icon when conflicting search results are found) (Horwitz: column 21,

lines 1-15) similar to that of Pinard. In addition, Horwitz further teaches determining whether

coordinates of a touch screen input indicate a representation area of the individual state indicator

upon receipt of the touch screen input and invoking the alarm function when the coordinates of

the touch screen input indicate the representation area of the individual state indicator (the

registered function of displaying selected information associated with the alarm status flashing

icon, i.e. a list of potential matters which produced the conflicts, is invoked if the user selects the

alarm status flashing icon; and using a touch screen input to make onscreen selections) (Horwitz:

column 9, lines 2-6 and column 21, lines 1-15 and 26-30). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Pinard and Horwitz before him at the time the

invention was made, to modify the method for associating an alarm function with an indicator of

Pinard to include the use of executing the associated function upon touch screen selection of the

icon taught by Horwitz. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to

allow users to respond to important indicator events such as alarms in a timely, convenient and

user-friendly manner.; furthermore, it would have been advantageous to make such a

combination in order to avoid the inconvenience of attaching a mouse or keyboard to devices

that are small in size, such as handheld devices like PDAs and cell phones.

(10) Response to Argument

1.   Independent Claim 1 is rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.

1A.   Pinard teaches the registering one of a plurality of functions related to a state indicator of

Claim 1.

The applicant argues that the icon of Pinard merely changes form because the cursor still

functions as a cursor when the form is changed in response to a telephone call, email message

etc., and therefore, Pinard is silent as to changing a function of an icon. The examiner

respectfully disagrees. Pinard teaches a plurality of functions associated with a single indicator,

i.e. a single cursor is associated with a plurality of functions such as the function of a telephone

indicator icon upon occurrence of a telephone call, the function of a message indicator upon the

occurrence of an email message, etc., as recited in column 1, line 59-column 2, line 10 and

column 4, line 11-55. Figures 3-5 of Pinard each shows a different function of the cursor 25;

Figure 3 shows the function of indicating the arrival of a telephone call; Figure 4 shows the .

function of indicating the arrival of an email message; and Figure 5 shows the function of

indicating a new fax message. Therefore, Pinard teaches a plurality of functions related to a

single indicator, i.e. the functions of indicating a new phone call, a new email message, and a

new fax message are registered with the indicator of the cursor icon 25.

In view of the above arguments, the examiner respectfully argues that the combination of

Pinard and Horwitz teaches the recitations of Claims 1-3, of registering one of the plurality of

functions related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when

the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs.

1B.   Pinard teaches altering the state representation of the individual state indicator of Claim

1.

The applicant argues that the icon of Pinard merely changes in form and is silent as to changing a function of an icon, therefore, Pinard does not disclose altering the state representation of the individual state indicator. The examiner respectfully disagrees and refers to the response to arguments in section 1A above. Pinard teaches a plurality of functions associated with a single indicator, i.e. a single cursor is associated with a plurality of functions such as the function of a telephone indicator icon upon occurrence of a telephone call, the function of a message indicator upon the occurrence of an email message, etc., as recited in column 1, line 59- column 2, line 10 and column 4, line 11-55. Figures 3-5 of Pinard each shows a different function and state representation, i.e. appearance of the cursor icon 25; Figure 3 shows the function of indicating the arrival of a telephone call via the displayed state representation of a cursor attached to an image of a telephone; Figure 4 shows the function of indicating the arrival of an email message via the displayed state representation of a cursor attached to an image of a mail envelope; and Figure 5 shows the function of indicating a new fax message via the displayed representation of a cursor attached to an image of a piece of a paper. Therefore, Pinard teaches a plurality of functions related to a single indicator, i.e. the functions of indicating a new phone call, a new email message, and a new fax message are registered with the indicator of the cursor icon 25 that are represented by changing state representations, i.e. changing appearances of the cursor icon.

In view of the above arguments, the examiner respectfully argues that the combination of Pinard and Horwitz teaches the recitation of Claims 1-3, of altering the state representation of the individual state indicator.

1C.   Pinard teaches the registered function is invoked upon receipt of a user input of Claim 1.

The applicant argues that Horwitz does not teach registering functions and Pinard does

not teach invoking a registered function. In response to applicant's arguments against the

references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually

where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413,

208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir.

1986). The applicant argues that Pinard merely changes the form of the icon and is silent as to

registered functions or invoking a registered function. The examiner respectfully disagrees and

refers to the response to arguments in section 1A above. Pinard teaches a plurality of functions

associated with a single indicator, i.e. a single cursor is associated with a plurality of functions

such as the function of a telephone indicator icon upon occurrence of a telephone call, the

function of a message indicator upon the occurrence of an email message, etc., as recited in

column 1, line 59-column 2, line 10 and column 4, line 11-55. Figures 3-5 of Pinard each shows

a different function of the cursor 25; Figure 3 shows the function of indicating the arrival of a

telephone call; Figure 4 shows the function of indicating the arrival of an email message; and

Figure 5 shows the function of indicating a new fax message. Therefore, Pinard teaches a

plurality of functions related to a single indicator, i.e. the functions of indicating a new phone

call, a new email message, and a new fax message are registered with the indicator of the cursor

icon 25. Furthermore, Pinard teaches that the registered functions are invoked via user input,

i.e., user input of answering the telephone upon the display of telephone call indicator cursor

icon invokes the function of a received telephone call, user input of running an application

program for accessing email upon the display of the telephone call indicator cursor icon invokes

the function of a received email message, etc. (column 4, lines 5-55). Therefore, Pinard teaches

that the registered functions of the indicator are executed, or invoked upon receipt of a user

input. Although Pinard doesn't explicitly teach that the user input is selection of the indicator,

Horwitz teaches the subject limitation. Similar to Pinard, Horwitz also teaches the display of an

indicator upon occurrence of an event, i.e. the display of the alarm status flashing icon when

conflicting search results are found, as recited in column 21, lines 1-15. Horwitz further teaches

that the registered function of the indicator is invoked upon user selection of the indicator, i.e.

the registered function of displaying selected information associated with the alarm status

flashing icon, i.e. a list of potential matters which produced the conflicts, is invoked if the user

selects the alarm status flashing icon, as recited in column 21, lines 1-15 and 26-30. Therefore,

since Pinard teaches invoking one of a plurality of registered functions of an indicator upon

receipt of a user input and Horwitz teaches the invocation of the function of the state indicator

upon designation of the indicator, the combination of Pinard and Horwitz teaches invoking one

of a plurality of registered functions of an indicator upon user input designating the indicator.

In view of the above arguments, the examiner respectfully argues that the combination of

Pinard and Horwitz teaches the recitations of Claims 1-3, of invoking the registered function

upon receipt of a user input.

2.   Independent Claim 4 is rendered obvious over Pinard in view of Horwitz.

2A.   Pinard teaches registering a message reading function to a message state indicator of

Claim 4.

The applicant argues that the icon of Pinard merely changes form because the cursor still functions as a cursor when the form is changed in response to a telephone call, email message etc., and therefore, Pinard is silent as to changing a function of an icon. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Pinard teaches a plurality of functions associated with a single indicator, i.e. a single cursor is associated with a plurality of functions such as the function of a telephone indicator icon upon occurrence of a telephone call, the function of a message indicator upon the occurrence of an email message, etc., as recited in column 1, line 59-column 2, line 10 and column 4, line 11-55. Figures 3-5 of Pinard each shows a different function of the cursor 25; Figure 3 shows the function of indicating the arrival of a telephone call; Figure 4 shows the function of indicating the arrival of an email message; and Figure 5 shows the function of indicating a new fax message. Therefore, Pinard teaches a plurality of functions related to a single indicator, i.e. the functions of indicating a new phone call, a new email message, and a new fax message are registered with the indicator of the cursor icon 25.

In view of the above arguments, the examiner respectfully argues that the Pinard and Horwitz teach the recitation of Claim 4, of registering an individual message reading function of the plurality of functions related to the message state indicator when the message arrives.

2B.   Pinard teaches altering the state representation of the message indicator of Claim 4.

The applicant argues that the icon of Pinard merely changes in form and is silent as to changing a function of an icon, therefore, Pinard does not disclose altering the state representation of the individual state indicator. The examiner respectfully disagrees and refers to the response to arguments in section 1A above. Pinard teaches a plurality of functions associated

with a single indicator, i.e. a single cursor is associated with a plurality of functions such as the

function of a telephone indicator icon upon occurrence of a telephone call, the function of a

message indicator upon the occurrence of an email message, etc., as recited in column 1, line 59-

column 2, line 10 and column 4, line 11-55. Figures 3-5 of Pinard each shows a different

function and state representation, i.e. appearance of the cursor icon 25; Figure 3 shows the

function of indicating the arrival of a telephone call via the displayed state representation of a

cursor attached to an image of a telephone; Figure 4 shows the function of indicating the arrival

of an email message via the displayed state representation of a cursor attached to an image of a

mail envelope; and Figure 5 shows the function of indicating a new fax message via the

displayed representation of a cursor attached to an image of a piece of a paper. Therefore, Pinard

teaches a plurality of functions related to a single indicator, i.e. the functions of indicating a new

phone call, a new email message, and a new fax message are registered with the indicator of the

cursor icon 25 that are represented by changing state representations, i.e. changing appearances

of the cursor icon.

In view of the above arguments, the examiner respectfully argues that the combination of

Pinard and Horwitz teach the recitation of Claim 4, of altering the state representation of the

individual message state indicator.

3.   Independent Claim 5 is rendered obvious over Pinard and Horwitz.

3A.   Pinard teaches registering an alarm function to an alarm state indicator of Claim 5.

The applicant argues that the icon of Pinard merely changes form because the cursor still

functions as a cursor when the form is changed in response to a telephone call, email message

etc., and therefore, Pinard is silent as to changing a function of an icon. The examiner

respectfully disagrees. Pinard teaches a plurality of functions associated with a single indicator,

i.e. a single cursor is associated with a plurality of functions such as the function of a telephone

indicator icon upon occurrence of a telephone call, the function of a message indicator upon the

occurrence of an email message, etc., as recited in column 1, line 59-column 2, line 10 and

column 4, line 11-55. Figures 3-5 of Pinard each shows a different function of the cursor 25;

Figure 3 shows the function of indicating the arrival of a telephone call; Figure 4 shows the

function of indicating the arrival of an email message; and Figure 5 shows the function of

indicating a new fax message. Therefore, Pinard teaches a plurality of functions related to a

single indicator, i.e. the functions of indicating a new phone call, a new email message, and a

new fax message are registered with the indicator of the cursor icon 25.

In view of the above arguments, the examiner respectfully argues that the Pinard and

Horwitz teach the recitation of Claim 5, of registering an alarm function of the plurality of

functions related to the individual alarm state indicator when the alarm is set.

3B.   Pinard teaches altering the state representation of the alarm state indicator of Claim 5.

The applicant argues that the icon of Pinard merely changes in form and is silent as to

changing a function of an icon, therefore, Pinard does not disclose altering the state

representation of the individual state indicator. The examiner respectfully disagrees and refers to

the response to arguments in section 1A above. Pinard teaches a plurality of functions associated

with a single indicator, i.e. a single cursor is associated with a plurality of functions such as the

function of a telephone indicator icon upon occurrence of a telephone call, the function of a

message indicator upon the occurrence of an email message, etc., as recited in column 1, line 59-

column 2, line 10 and column 4, line 11-55. Figures 3-5 of Pinard each shows a different

function and state representation, i.e. appearance of the cursor icon 25; Figure 3 shows the

function of indicating the arrival of a telephone call via the displayed state representation of a

cursor attached to an image of a telephone; Figure 4 shows the function of indicating the arrival

of an email message via the displayed state representation of a cursor attached to an image of a

mail envelope; and Figure 5 shows the function of indicating a new fax message via the

displayed representation of a cursor attached to an image of a piece of a paper. Therefore, Pinard

teaches a plurality of functions related to a single indicator, i.e. the functions of indicating a new

phone call, a new email message, and a new fax message are registered with the indicator of the

cursor icon 25 that are represented by changing state representations, i.e. changing appearances

of the cursor icon.

In view of the above arguments, the examiner respectfully argues that the combination of

Pinard and Horwitz teach the recitation of Claim 5, of altering the state representation of the

individual alarm state indicator.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related

Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.
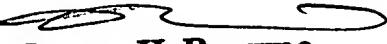
Respectfully submitted,

Ting Zhou

Conferees:

Lynne Browne

Lynne H. Browne
Appeal Specialist, TQAS
Technology Center 2100

Kristine Kincaid

KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100